

Westwood Environmental Advisory Committee

Monday September 17, 2012
Approved Minutes



Attending: Gregory Mountain (*Sec'ty*), Connor Odell,
Michael Pessalano, Yash Risbud
Michael Ruane (*Chair*), John Sciara

Regrets: Christine Blaney

Ruane called mtg to order at 7:40pm
Minutes of previous mtg approved + seconded

Membership

Balfe

due to increased business obligations, Chris regrettably resigned from EnCom
EnCom will miss his wit and factual command of a wide range of recycling issues

Brennan

though a surprise to some, there's life after High School, and Kevin has moved on
his knowledge of green issues + contribution to EnCom surpassed his years + will be missed

Biggest Loser Project (Pessalano)

3 attempts at contact with SustainableNJ seeking guidance on similar municipal projects
answers sought to 'who else has done it?' 'are there issues to be wary of?'
no reply to queries left in email

Bob Hoffman has been successful in getting advice in past; perhaps he can help

Ruane noted he owns property served by Central Jersey Gas + perhaps will answer queries from him

Rain Barrel Workshop (Odell, Ruane)

Workshop was v successful

24 attendees assembled 35 barrels
mostly couples

interest high enough that EnCom should ask Rutgers to lead another workshop in Spring13

Rutgers followed up with email survey of usage

Ruane reported his experience with 2 barrels

forgot to secure netting around overflow valve + mosquitoes found their way in
1 barrel to receive runoff from new roof; waiting the recommended 6 mos. before installation

Stream Turbine Project (Risbud)

Continued discouraging statements from USGS about stringent permitting issues

permanent installation at chosen site will be strictly forbidden

Risbud + design team has called it quits with this plan

Alternate sites were discussed (Bogert Dam, WW cemetery outflow) but none seemed viable

Community Garden (Ruane)

Responding to query, Ruane noted permaculture garden owned by Town, mgd by Ambulance Corps

Status of reclaimed houses in flood zone: Town to make offers to purchase affected properties

Status of \$12K garden grant

Ruane thinks substantial planning has begun

Sciara to determine work done to date, plans that have taken form + report at next mtg

No Idling Law

busses waiting to begin city-bound run on Broadway are large offenders - what to do?
re-organized lights, Broadway traffic planned during upcoming year
to reduce occasional long traffic lines, esp. during arrival/departure of train
Ruane, Pessalano to inquire investigate + report details of plan to EnCom

High School Outreach

Odell to make inquiries for interested students to serve on EnCom
Risbud + Mountain to make contact with new Science Director

Next mtg: Oct 15

Mtg. adjourned at 8:45pm